

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:AMB EILTS:CEK

APPROVED BY NEA - MR ATHERTON

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 001672

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA, US, EG

SUBJECT: TRAINING OF EGYPTIANS IN SAUDI F-5 PROGRAM

REFERENCE: CAIRO 12855

FOR CHARGE FROM AMBASSADOR

1. WE ARE REPEATING TO YOU JIDDA'S 49 INDICATING THAT EGYPTIANS HAVE NOT YET TAKEN PROMISED ACTION TO TERMINATE F-5 TRAINING PROGRAM IN SAUDI ARABIA. YOU WILL RECALL REFTEL REPORTED ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON'S DISCUSSION WITH SADAT ON THE SUBJECT AND THE PRESIDENT'S PROMISE TO INSTRUCT GAMASY TO TERMINATE THE PROGRAM AND RECALL THE EGYPTIAN TRAINEES.

2. I CAN ONLY IMAGINE THAT THE PRESIDENT INADVERTENTLY FORGOT TO TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION OR THAT THE NEEDED INSTRUCTIONS ARE STILL MAKING THEIR WAY THROUGH MINISTRY OF DEFENSE CHANNELS. SINCE FIRST PILOTS ARE EXPECTED TO

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BEGIN FLYING ABOUT JANUARY 10, THERE IS SOME URGENCY TO

GETTING THE NEEDED EGYPTIAN INSTRUCTIONS TO TERMINATE THE PROGRAM.

3. SINCE YOU WILL BE TAKING CODEL MORGAN TO MEET WITH THE

PRESIDENT ON JANUARY 6, I THINK THIS MIGHT OFFER A GOOD OCCASION TO SAY A WORD TO HIM AFTER REPEAT AFTER ALL OF THE CONGRESSMEN ARE OUT. YOU MIGHT RECALL HIS DISCUSSION WITH ATHERTON AND ME ON THE SUBJECT, DURING WHICH HE AGREED TO TERMINATE THE PROGRAM, AND ASK IF THE NECESSARY ACTION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN. IF IT HAS NOT, YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT IT IS IN BOTH OF OUR INTERESTS TO TAKE QUICK ACTION TO TERMINATE THE PROGRAM SINCE WE UNDERSTAND EGYPTIAN PILOTS ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN THE FLYING PHASE OF THE PROGRAM. THIS PHASE HAS THE HIGHEST VISIBILITY AND, IF ALLOWED TO GET UNDERWAY, COULD DO DAMAGE TO THE PURPOSES WE ARE TRYING TO ACHIEVE.

4. PLEASE REPORT YOUR PERTINENT TALK ASAP WITH REQUEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT IT TO JIDDA. KISSINGER

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